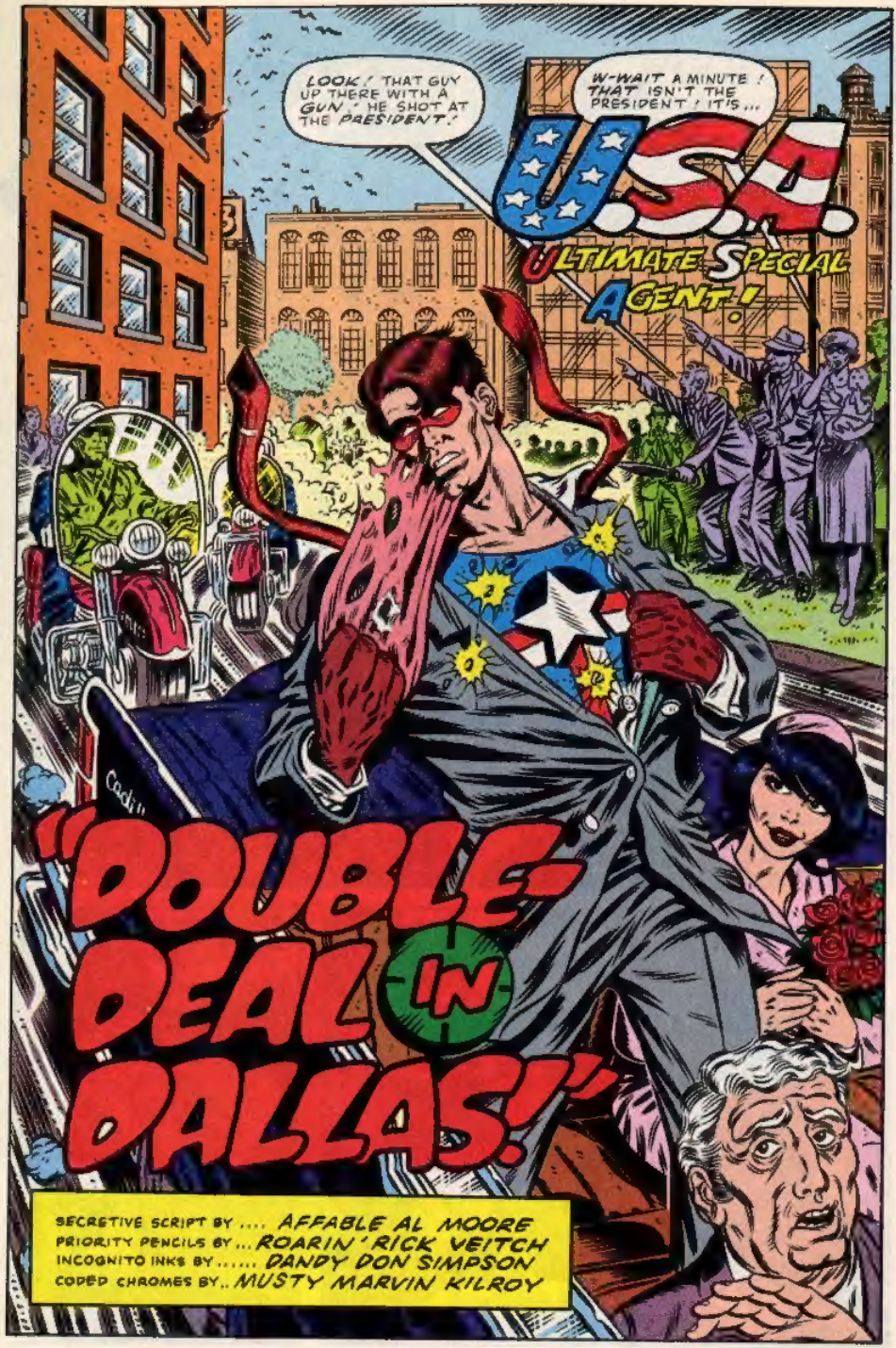
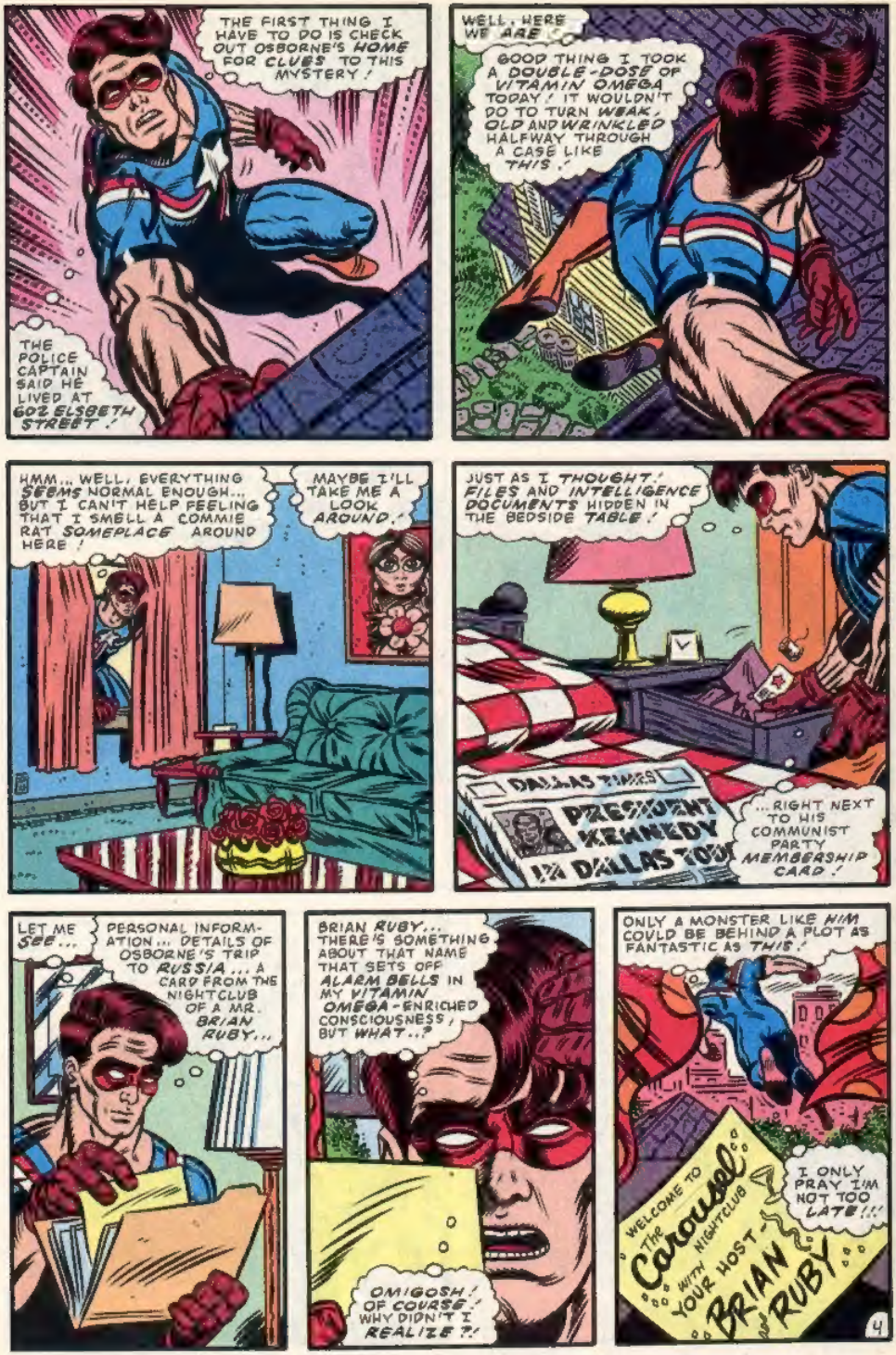
1963
image
BOOK THREE
TALES OF THE UNCANNY
$1.95
DOUBLE THE ACTION!
DOUBLE THRILLS!


LOOK! THAT GUY UP THERE WITH A GUN! HE SHOT AT THE PRESIDENT!
W-WAIT A MINUTE! THAT ISN'T THE PRESIDENT! IT'S...
U.S.A.
ULTIMATE SPECIAL AGENT!
"DOUBLE-DEAL IN DALLAS!"
SECRETIVE SCRIPT BY .... AFFABLE AL MOORE
PRIORITY PENCILS BY ... ROARIN' RICK VEITCH
INCOGNITO INKS BY ..... DANDY DON SIMPSON
CODED CHROMES BY.. MUSTY MARVIN KILROY

YOUR MYSTERIOUS PHONE INFORMANT WAS RIGHT, U.S.A.! SOMEONE WAS PLANNING TO SHOOT THE PRESIDENT!!
THANK HEAVENS YOU AGREED TO STAND IN FOR HIM. JUST PROMISE ME YOU WON'T GET HURT YOURSELF!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MA'AM!
IT'S THE OTHER GUY YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT!
SPRUNG!
WHAT A MAN!!!
YOU KNOW, JACK'S LUCKY THAT U.S.A. NEVER RAN FOR PRESIDENT!
AND UP ABOVE...
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU BUSH-WHACKING RAT!!!
THAT IS WHERE YOU ARE WRONG, MY FRIEND! MY WORK HERE IS DONE AND I MUST DEPART! --FAREWELL!!!
GONE! BUT HOW?
THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE THAT MEETS THE EYE!
UNNHHH...
HUH? SOMEONE BEHIND ME, TIED UP AND BARELY CONSCIOUS!!!
I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AND SEE IF HE'S OKAY!
WHAT IN..? AM I GOING CRAZY, OR IS THIS THE SAME GUY WHO JUST VANISHED?
THE PRESIDENT... MUST KILL... THE PRESIDENT...
FROM THE SOUND OF WHAT HE'S MUTTERING, HE'S AS GUILTY AS HIS LOOKALIKE!
I'D BETTER TURN HIM OVER TO THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SEE IF THEY CAN THROW ANY LIGHT ON THIS!
2

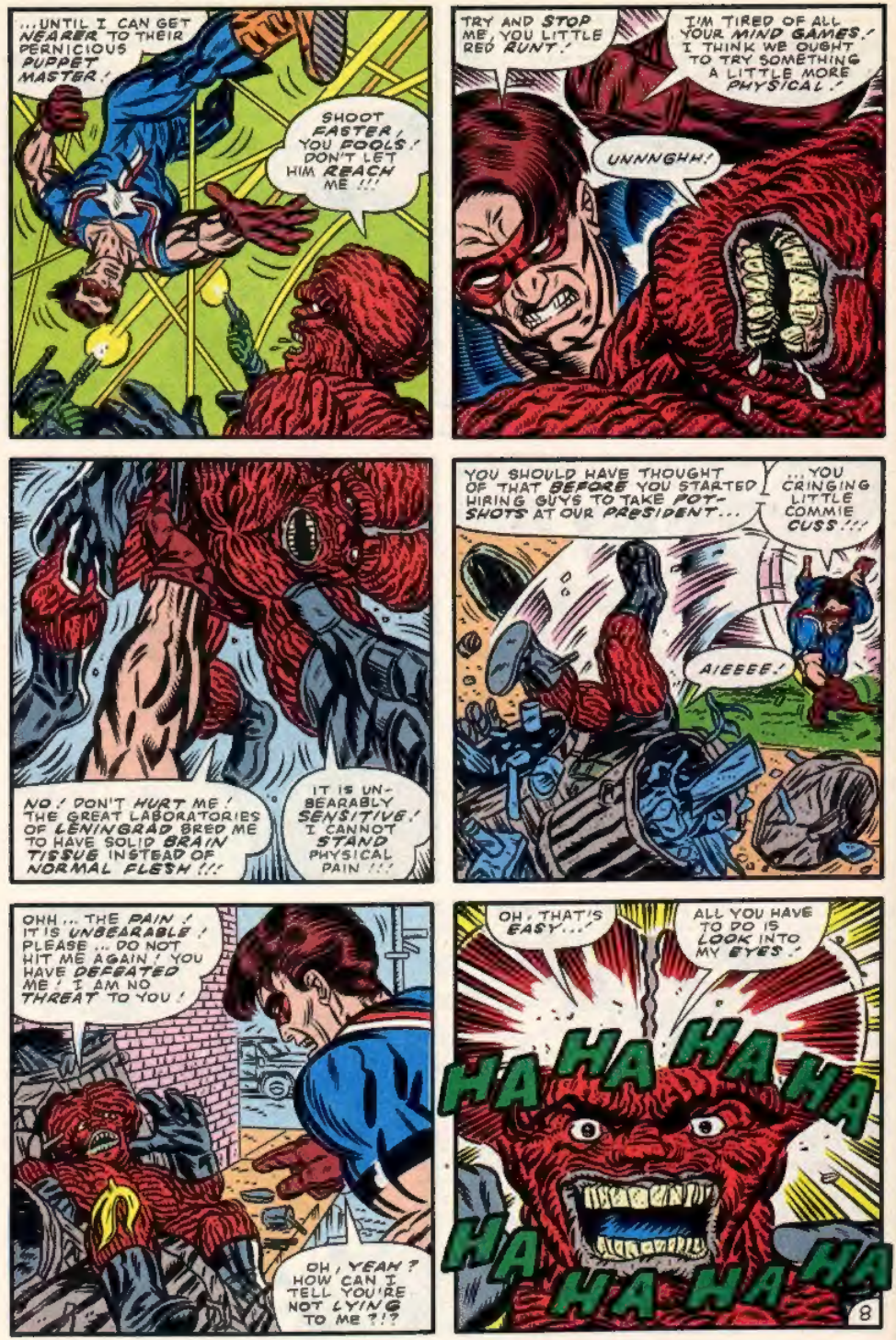
AND SO...
...AND THAT'S THE STORY, CAPTAIN!
THE LOOKALIKE VANISHED, LEAVING THIS GUY TIED UP.
THAT'S LEO HARLEY OSBORNE, A SHADY CHARACTER WE'VE BEEN WATCHING FOR A WHILE. ...LIVES OVER AT 602 ELSBETH.
STRANGE THING IS, SEEMS LIKE OSBORNE'S DOUBLE MAYBE WASN'T SHOOTING AT THE PRESIDENT AT ALL! ...WE FOUND THESE GUYS ON THE GRASSY KNOLL, BOTH WITH LONG-RANGE RIFLES, BOTH DISABLED BY SHOTS IN THE ARM.
YOU MEAN MAYBE THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL THE PRESIDENT, AND OUR VANISHING MYSTERY MAN WAS TRYING TO STOP THEM?
BUT THAT'S CRAZY! WHY WOULD...?
EXCUSE ME, AGENT. IT SEEMS I OWE YOU MY LIFE.
MR. PRESIDENT?
MY FATHER SAW YOU IN ACTION WITH THE GANG-BUSTERS IN THE 'TWENTIES.
YOU WERE SO BRAVE, RISKING YOUR LIFE LIKE THAT!
I MUST SAY, YOU LIVE UP TO HIS DESCRIPTION.
JUST DOING MY JOB, MA'AM!
NOW, IF YOU AND MRS. KENNEDY WILL EXCUSE ME, SIR, I HAVE SOME INVESTIGATIONS TO MAKE!
OF COURSE! GOD SPEED YOU, MY FRIEND!
THERE GOES A FINE AND COURAGEOUS MAN, HONEY. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW OUR NATION'S SECURITY IS IN SUCH CAPABLE HANDS!
POLICE
SIGH!
AND HE'S SO CUTE, TOO!
3

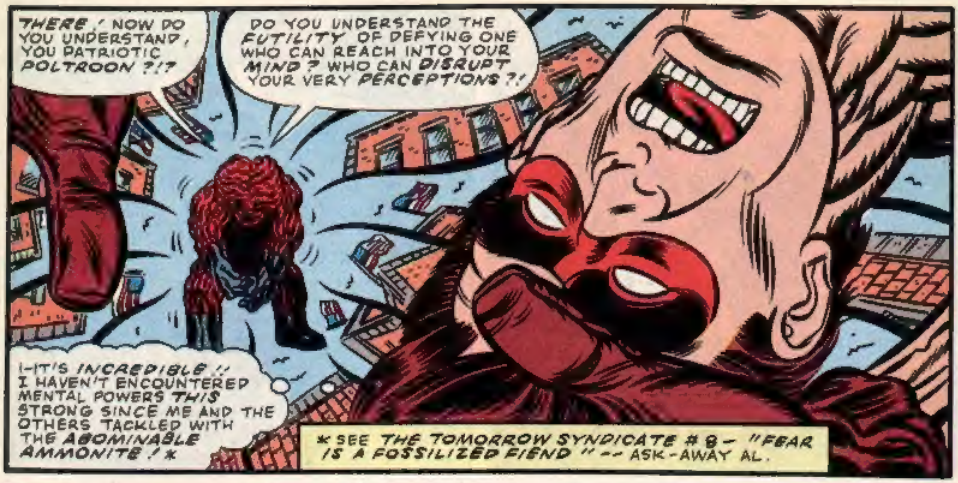

THE FIRST THING I HAVE TO DO IS CHECK OUT OSBORNE'S HOME FOR CLUES TO THIS MYSTERY!
THE POLICE CAPTAIN SAID HE LIVED AT 602 ELSBETH STREET!
WELL, HERE WE ARE!
GOOD THING I TOOK A DOUBLE-DOSE OF VITAMIN OMEGA TODAY! IT WOULDN'T DO TO TURN WEAK, OLD AND WRINKLED HALFWAY THROUGH A CASE LIKE THIS!
HMM... WELL, EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL ENOUGH... BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING THAT I SMELL A COMMIE RAT SOMEPLACE AROUND HERE!
MAYBE I'LL TAKE ME A LOOK AROUND!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! FILES AND INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS HIDDEN IN THE BEDSIDE TABLE!
DALLAS TIMES
PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN DALLAS TODAY
...RIGHT NEXT TO HIS COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARD!
LET ME SEE...
PERSONAL INFORMATION... DETAILS OF OSBORNE'S TRIP TO RUSSIA... A CARD FROM THE NIGHTCLUB OF A MR. BRIAN RUBY...
BRIAN RUBY... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME THAT SETS OFF ALARM BELLS IN MY VITAMIN OMEGA-ENRICHED CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT WHAT...?
OMIGOSH! OF COURSE! WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE?!
ONLY A MONSTER LIKE HIM COULD BE BEHIND A PLOT AS FANTASTIC AS THIS!
WELCOME TO THE Carousel NIGHTCLUB WITH YOUR HOST - BRIAN RUBY
I ONLY PRAY I'M NOT TOO LATE!!!
4

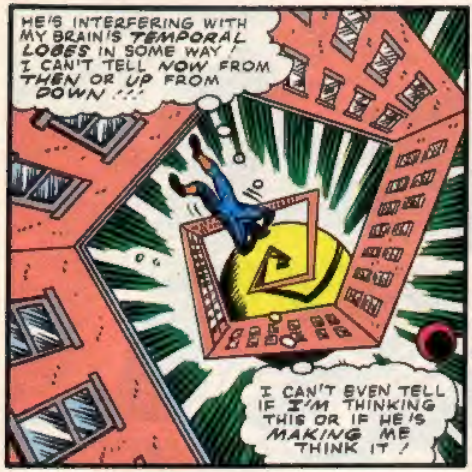
MEANWHILE...
OKAY, OSBORNE! WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO TAKE YOU SOMEPLACE MORE SECURE!
I'LL SAY ONE THING ...YOU SURE SEEM PRETTY CALM FOR A GUY WHO TRIED TO KILL THE PRESIDENT!
WHY SHOULD I WORRY? THAT CREEPY LOOKALIKE APPEARED FROM NOWHERE AND HOG-TIED ME BEFORE I'D EVEN TOUCHED THE GUN!
IT'LL BE HIS PRINTS ON THE WEAPON, NOT MINE!
ANYWAY, I'M GONNA TURN STATE EVIDENCE AND TELL THE STORY BEHIND THE WHOLE CONSPIRACY!
YEAH, YEAH! SAYS YOU, WISE GUY!
THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN IS BEING LED OUT NOW...
THE MAN, NAMED AS ONE LEO HARLEY OSBORNE...
...SEEMS STRANGELY CALM AND CONFIDENT!
WE'LL SOON SEE ABOUT THAT!
AND OSBORNE IS BEING LED TO A POLICE VEHICLE... WAIT A MINUTE! A MAN IS BURSTING OUT OF THE CROWD...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, OSBORNE! I SAY YOU'RE A RAT, AND I SAY YOU DIE RIGHT NOW!
PKOW!
PKOW!
UH-UH! MY BULLET-PROOF COSTUME SAYS OTHERWISE FRIEND!
EVEN A RAT DESERVES TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO DO HIS RATTING IN COURT!
5

...ESPECIALLY IF HE'S RATTING ON A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU !!!
UNNGH ! DON'T LET HIM DO THIS TO ME, BOYS ! I'M A PATRIOTIC NIGHTCLUB OWNER ! I'M BRIAN RUBY !
YOU EGO-MANIACS ARE ALL THE SAME ! EVEN CHOOSING ALIASES, YOU LEAVE CLUES, LIKE SIGNATURES !
AFTER FIGURING OUT THAT RUBY MEANT RED AND THAT BRIAN WAS AN ANAGRAM, THE REST WAS EASY ! SO, C'MON... DROP THAT HYPNOTIC SCREEN, MR. BRIAN RUBY ...OR SHOULD I SAY...
RED BRAIN!
SO, WE MEET AGAIN, U.S.A. ! I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU ANTICIPATED MY PLOT TO KILL THE PRESIDENT OR SAW THROUGH MY DISGUISE, BUT I'M GLAD !!!
GLAD BECAUSE YOU'VE GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO ATONE FOR MY FAILURE ! A CHANCE TO GIVE MY MOSCOW MASTERS A GIFT AS VALUABLE AS A SLAIN PRESIDENT !
OH YEAH ? AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE ?!?
YOUR DEATH, CAPITALIST CUR !!!
UNNNGH !
YOUR DEATH !
ZZZAAAAT !
6

HA HA HA HA HA!
SURPRISED, YOU FLAG-FESTOONED FOOL? MY BRAIN-BLASTS HAVE GROWN STRONGER SINCE LAST WE MET!
DON'T WORRY, U.S.A.! WE GOT THE DROP ON THAT FREAK FURRINER!!!
SEE TALES OF THE UNCANNY #103 - ALTRUISTIC AL.
NO! STAY BACK! ALL OF YOU! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE'S TOO POWERFUL!!!
LET THEM COME! THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO CHALLENGE MY GENETICALLY ENGINEERED GENIUS...
...AND NOW THEY MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!!!
GASP! IT'S LIKE A RED FOG -- ROLLING INTO MY MIND!
CAN'T RESIST... CAN'T THINK...
YOU SEE? YOUR COUNTRYMEN ARE AS DOCILE AND BRAIN-WASHED AS THE MOST SLAVE-BOUND SOVIET CITIZEN!!! -- THEY WILL DO WHATEVER I WANT!!!
...AND WHAT I WANT IS FOR THEM TO KILL YOU!
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, MY LOYAL LEGIONS?!? -- BLOW THAT STAR-SPANGLED SIMPLETON'S HEAD OFF!!!
BENEATH THE RED BRAIN'S MIND-MIST, THESE ARE DECENT MEN!!!
I MUSTN'T HURT THEM...
...OR LET THEM HURT ME!
MY BULLETPROOF COSTUME DOESN'T PROTECT MY HEAD! I JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT MY VITAMIN OMEGA-ENHANCED REFLEXES...
...WILL ALLOW ME TO DODGE THEIR BULLETS...
7


...UNTIL I CAN GET NEARER TO THEIR PERNICIOUS PUPPET MASTER!
SHOOT FASTER, YOU FOOLS! DON'T LET HIM REACH ME!!!
TRY AND STOP ME, YOU LITTLE RED RUNT!
I'M TIRED OF ALL YOUR MIND GAMES! I THINK WE OUGHT TO TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE PHYSICAL!
UNNNGHH!
NO! DON'T HURT ME! THE GREAT LABORATORIES OF LENINGRAD BRED ME TO HAVE SOLID BRAIN TISSUE INSTEAD OF NORMAL FLESH!!!
IT IS UNBEARABLY SENSITIVE! I CANNOT STAND PHYSICAL PAIN!!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU STARTED HIRING GUYS TO TAKE POT-SHOTS AT OUR PRESIDENT...
...YOU CRINGING LITTLE COMMIE CUSS!!!
AIEEEE!
OHH... THE PAIN! IT IS UNBEARABLE! PLEASE... DO NOT HIT ME AGAIN! YOU HAVE DEFEATED ME! I AM NO THREAT TO YOU!
OH, YEAH? HOW CAN I TELL YOU'RE NOT LYING TO ME?!?
OH, THAT'S EASY...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK INTO MY EYES!
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA


THERE ! NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU PATRIOTIC POLTROON ?!?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE FUTILITY OF DEFYING ONE WHO CAN REACH INTO YOUR MIND ? WHO CAN DISRUPT YOUR VERY PERCEPTIONS ?!
I-IT'S INCREDIBLE !! I HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED MENTAL POWERS THIS STRONG SINCE ME AND THE OTHERS TACKLED WITH THE ABOMINABLE AMMONITE ! *
* SEE THE TOMORROW SYNDICATE # 8 — "FEAR IS A FOSSILIZED FIEND" — ASK-AWAY AL.


HE'S INTERFERING WITH MY BRAIN'S TEMPORAL LOBES IN SOME WAY ! I CAN'T TELL NOW FROM THEN OR UP FROM DOWN !!!
I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF I'M THINKING THIS OR IF HE'S MAKING ME THINK IT !

HA HA HA !!! CONFUSED, YOU GLORY-GARBED GOON ? DON'T WORRY ! SOON IT WILL BE OVER ! SOON YOU WILL BE DEAD !!! HA HA HA HA !!!
IS HE RIGHT ? IS THIS THE END ?

I CAN'T BEAT HIM ! I'M TOO OLD ! IF MY RARE BLOOD-TYPE HADN'T RESPONDED TO THE VITAMIN OMEGA THEY GAVE ME IN THE TWENTIES, I'D BE A DODDERING SIXTY YEAR OLD BY NOW !
I'M A HAS-BEEN ! A RELIC !!

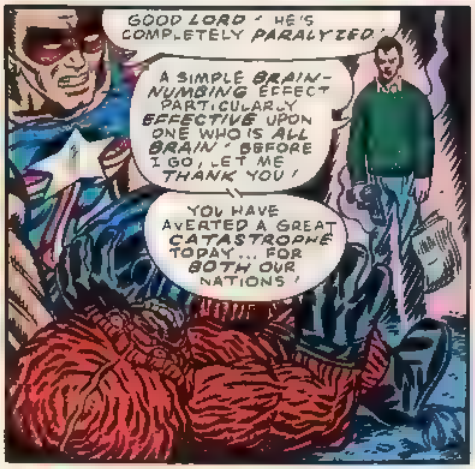
NO ! THOSE AREN'T MY THOUGHTS ! HE'S PLAYING WITH MY EMOTIONS -- AND MAKING ME DOUBT MYSELF ! IF I CAN'T TRUST MY MIND, I MUST TRUST THE BLIND PHYSICAL INSTINCTS OF MY BODY !

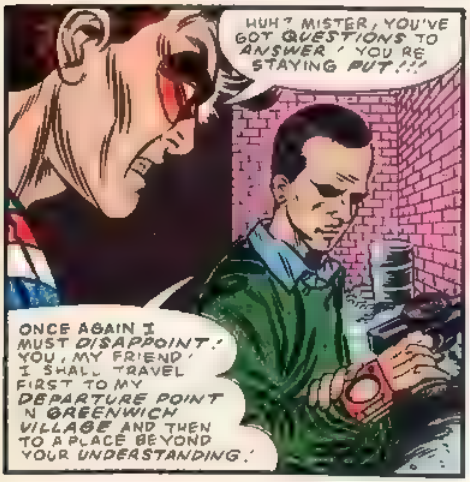
...AND LET THEM SHOW ME THE WAY!
WHOK!
OOF -IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NO ONE HAS EVER BROKEN THROUGH MY MIRAGE MAZE BEFORE
I CAN FEEL THE VITAMIN D GRADUALLY WEARING OFF! I CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER! HAVE TO FINISH HIM OFF NOW WHILE HE'S STILL GROGGY!
STAY BACK! MY TENDER TISSUES MUST NOT ENDURE FURTHER PHYSICAL CONTACT!
STAY BACK? AND SPOIL MY BIG TREAT?!?
I NEVER GOT TO PUNCH ANYBODY IN THE BRAIN BEFORE!
AAAAUGHHHH!!!
-IT'S NO USE! DIDN'T HIT HIM HARD ENOUGH TO FINISH HIM OFF!!!
THE ENERGY POURING OUT OF HIM'S LIKE HAVING A LIVE WIRE BETWEEN MY EYES! I-I CAN'T FOCUS! BLACKING OUT...
ENOUGH OF THIS TIME-WASTING! A FINAL BRAIN-BLAST SHOULD BURN OUT YOUR CENTRAL CORTEX, AND LEAVE YOU A DROOLING CRETIN!
I AM AFRAID I CANNOT LET YOU DO THAT, COMRADE!
EH?

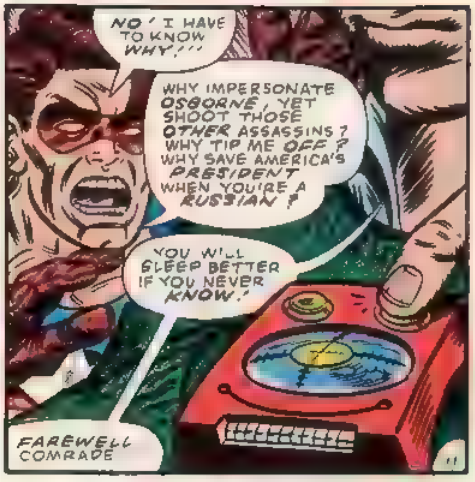
WHAT ? OSBORNE ? DID YOU ESCAPE FROM YOUR CUFFS WHEN THIS CLOWN STOPPED ME SHOOTING YOU, OR ?
NO .. WAIT A MINUTE ! YOUR VOICE ! YOUR BEARING ! THEY'RE DIFFERENT !
YOU'RE NOT OSBORNE ! WHO ARE YOU ?
TIMES

I AM THE ONE WHO GAVE YOUR AMERICAN ADVERSARY HIS TIP-OFF ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT... AND I HAVE COME A LONG WAY TO STOP YOU FROM MAKING A MOST GRIEVOUS ERROR !
TH-THAT WEAPON ! WHAT IS IT ?!?
NEWS

NO ! NO ! DON'T POINT IT AT ME ! DON'T
I AM TRULY SORRY, COMRADE ! BUT I COULD NOT LET YOU KILL THE AMERICAN !!!
NOT AFTER HE SERVED ME SO WELL IN FOILING YOUR CALAMITOUS SCHEME !!!


GOOD LORD ! HE'S COMPLETELY PARALYZED !
A SIMPLE BRAIN-NUMBING EFFECT PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE UPON ONE WHO IS ALL BRAIN ! BEFORE I GO, LET ME THANK YOU !
YOU HAVE AVERTED A GREAT CATASTROPHE TODAY... FOR BOTH OUR NATIONS !

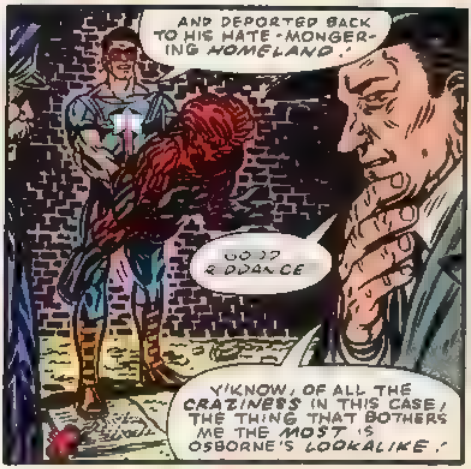

HUH ? MISTER, YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER ! YOU'RE STAYING PUT !!!
ONCE AGAIN I MUST DISAPPOINT ! YOU, MY FRIEND ! I SHALL TRAVEL FIRST TO MY DEPARTURE POINT IN GREENWICH VILLAGE AND THEN TO A PLACE BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING !


NO ! I HAVE TO KNOW WHY !!!
WHY IMPERSONATE OSBORNE, YET SHOOT THOSE OTHER ASSASSINS ? WHY TIP ME OFF ? WHY SAVE AMERICA'S PRESIDENT WHEN YOU'RE A RUSSIAN !
YOU WILL SLEEP BETTER IF YOU NEVER KNOW !
FAREWELL COMRADE

WAIT ! DON'T ...
IT'S TOO LATE ! HE'S ALREADY FADING AND BECOMING INSUBSTANTIAL ! HE'S GOING ! HE'S ..

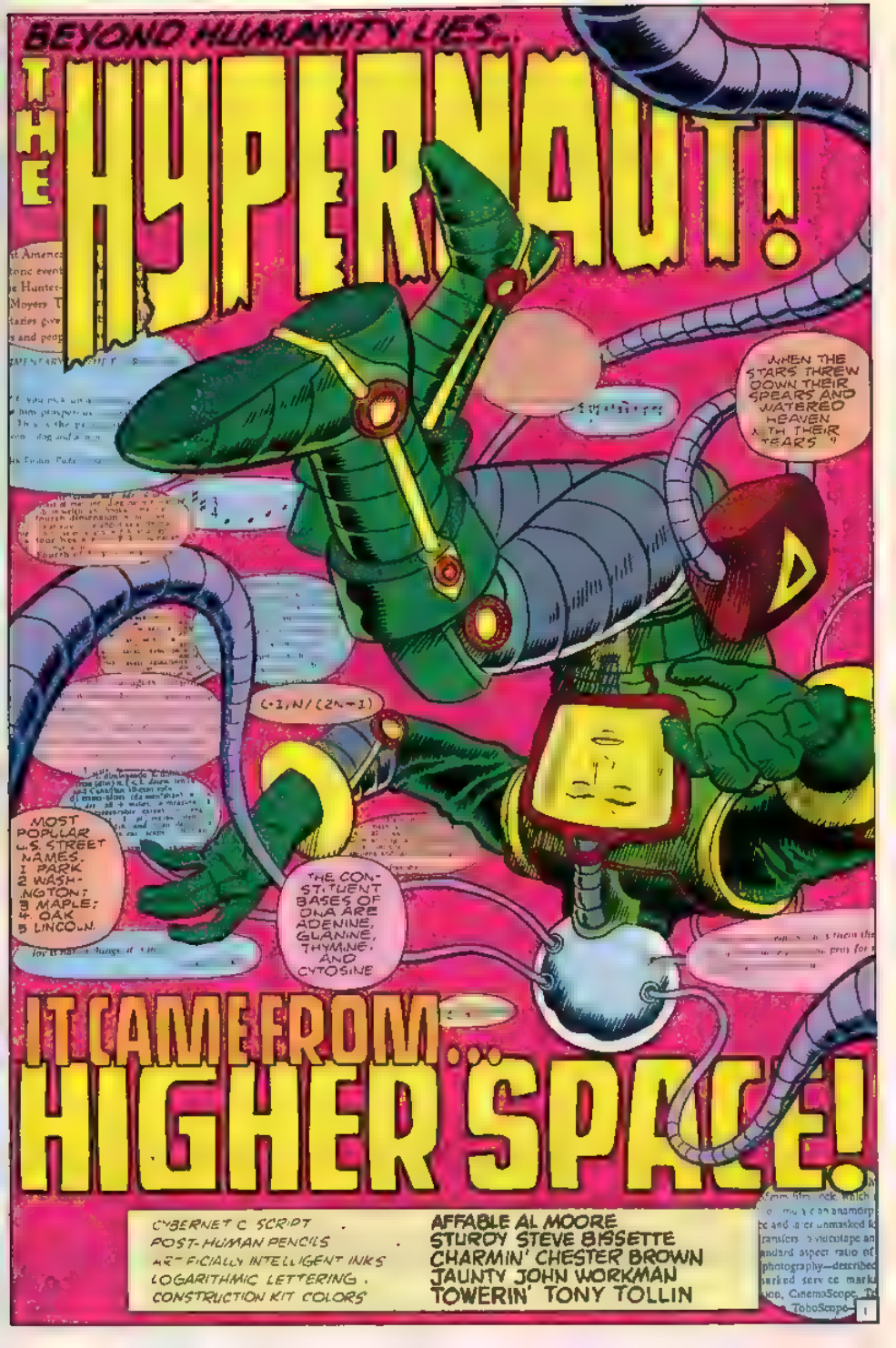
.. GONE ! GONE WITHOUT A TRACE ..!
SAY, U.S.A. ! ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WE DIDN'T MEAN TO ATTACK YOU LIKE THAT ! IT WAS THAT RED BRAIN FELLER GOT US ALL MIXED UP !

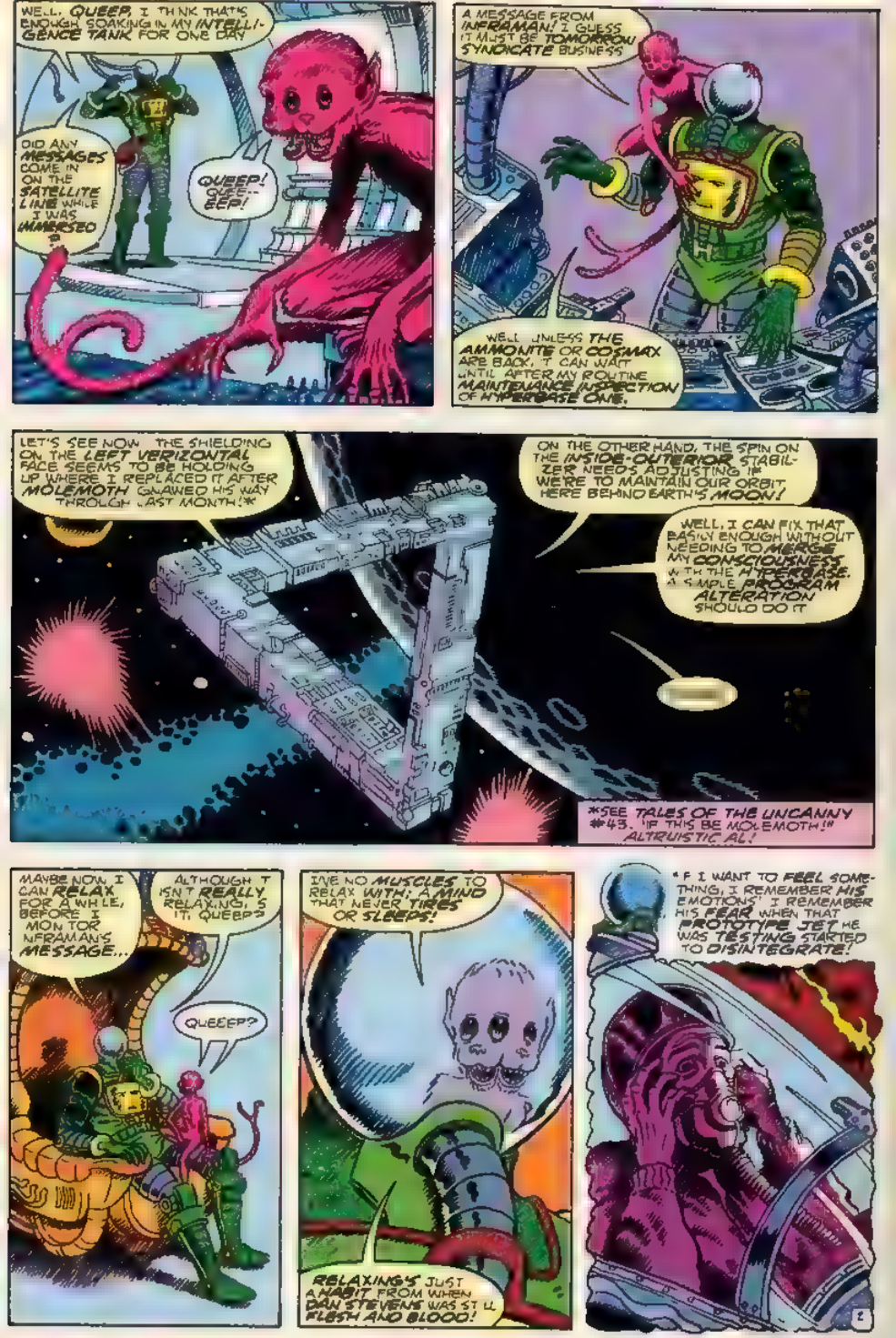
LOOKS LIKE THAT OSBORNE DOUBLE FIXED HIM PRETTY GOOD THOUGH ! OH, SAY, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, YOU HAD A CALL, SOME FELLER NAME OF INFRA-MAN !
OH, YEAH, SURE THANKS A LOT I'LL GET BACK TO HIM
MEANWHILE, I'LL GET THIS MALIGNANT MUSCOVITE MIDGET SEDATED ...


AND DEPORTED BACK TO HIS HATE-MONGERING HOMELAND !
GOOD RIDDANCE
Y'KNOW, OF ALL THE CRAZINESS IN THIS CASE, THE THING THAT BOTHERS ME THE MOST IS OSBORNE'S LOOKALIKE !

I MEAN, WHERE DID HE COME FROM ? WHERE WOULD FOLKS KNOW OF AN ASSASSINATION PLANNED IN DALLAS THIS AFTERNOON ?
HMM. IT SEEMS AN IMPOSSIBLE RIDDLE ! YET WHY DO I HAVE THIS CRAZY FEELING ...

.. THAT THE ANSWER'S RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE ?
R 22, 1993
12
WHEW ! AND IF YOU'RE NOT OCCUPYING ORBITSVILLE AFTER THAT OFF-BEAT OBFUSCATION OF ODDBALL OCCURENCES, WAIT UNTIL YOU HUDDLE WITH OUR HAPPY-GO-LUCKY HYPERNAUT ON THE 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING !


BEYOND HUMANITY LIES...
THE HYPERNAUT!
WHEN THE STARS THREW DOWN THEIR SPEARS AND WATERED HEAVEN WITH THEIR TEARS
(-1)^N/(2N+1)
MOST POPULAR U.S. STREET NAMES. 1 PARK 2 WASHINGTON; 3 MAPLE; 4 OAK 5 LINCOLN.
THE CONSTITUENT BASES OF DNA ARE ADENINE, GLANINE, THYMINE, AND CYTOSINE
IT CAME FROM... HIGHER SPACE!
CYBERNETIC SCRIPT . AFFABLE AL MOORE
POST-HUMAN PENCILS . STUROY STEVE BISSETTE
ARTIFICIALLY INTELLIGENT INKS CHARMIN' CHESTER BROWN
LOGARITHMIC LETTERING . JAUNTY JOHN WORKMAN
CONSTRUCTION KIT COLORS TOWERIN' TONY TOLLIN


WE.L. QUEEP, I TH NK THAT'S ENOUGH SOAKING IN MY INTELLI-GENCE TANK FOR ONE DAY
DID ANY MESSAGES COME IN ON THE SATELLITE LINE WHILE I WAS IMMERSED?
QUEEP! QUEE.. EEP!
A MESSAGE FROM NFRAMAN! I GUESS IT MUST BE TOMORROW SYNDICATE BUSINESS
WELL UNLESS THE AMMONITE OR COSMAX ARE BACK, I CAN WAIT UNTIL AFTER MY ROUTINE MAINTENANCE INSPECTION OF HYPERBASE ONE.
LET'S SEE NOW. THE SHIELDING ON THE LEFT VERIZONTAL FACE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING UP WHERE I REPLACED IT AFTER MOLEMOTH GNAWED HIS WAY THROUGH LAST MONTH!*
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SPIN ON THE INSIDE-OUTERIOR STABIL-IZER NEEDS ADJUSTING IF WE'RE TO MAINTAIN OUR ORBIT HERE BEHIND EARTH'S MOON!
WELL, I CAN FIX THAT EASILY ENOUGH WITHOUT NEEDING TO MERGE MY CONSCIOUSNESS WITH THE HYPERBASE. A SIMPLE PROGRAM ALTERATION SHOULD DO IT
*SEE TALES OF THE UNCANNY #43. "IF THIS BE MOLEMOTH!" ALTRUISTIC AL!
MAYBE NOW, I CAN RELAX FOR A WHILE, BEFORE I MONITOR NFRAMAN'S MESSAGE...
ALTHOUGH I ISN'T REALLY RELAXING, S IT, QUEEP?
QUEEEP?
I'VE NO MUSCLES TO RELAX WITH; A MIND THAT NEVER TIRES OR SLEEPS!
RELAXING'S JUST A HABIT FROM WHEN DAN STEVENS WAS ST IL FLESH AND BLOOD!
"IF I WANT TO FEEL SOME-THING, I REMEMBER HIS EMOTIONS' I REMEMBER HIS FEAR WHEN THAT PROTOTYPE JET HE WAS TESTING STARTED TO DISINTEGRATE!
2

"I REMEMBER HIS PAIN, MACHINE GUNNED BY FLYING METAL AS THE FAULTY ENGINE EXPLODED.

"AND HIS BEWILDERMENT AS A FLYING SAUCER STRAIGHT FROM THE SCI-FI MAGAZINES APPEARED BEFORE HIS DYING EYES, GATHERING HIM IN A TRACTOR BEAM!

"HE NEVER SAW HIS BENEFACTORS, CATCHING ONLY BLURRED GLIMPSES OF THEIR SURGEON-MACHINES THROUGH THE FOG OF ANESTHETIC AS THEY STRUGGLED TO SAVE HIS BROKEN BODY!

"ALAS, THEY STRUGGLED IN VAIN! EVENTUALLY, STEVENS'S ALIEN RESCUERS HAD ONLY ONE CHOICE: TO DISMANTLE HIS BRAIN ATOM-BY-ATOM WITH THEIR BEAM TECHNOLOGY...

"...WHILE COPYING ITS PRECISE PATTERNS ONTO A NEW CYBERNETIC RECEPTICLE!

"DAN STEVENS DIED. ONLY HIS MIND SURVIVED, AS A HYPERNAUT!

"ONE OF A GUILD OF FANATIC BEINGS FROM A HUNDRED DIFFERENT WORLDS, RESCUED AT THE POINT OF DEATH AND REBORN INTO NEW BODIES!"

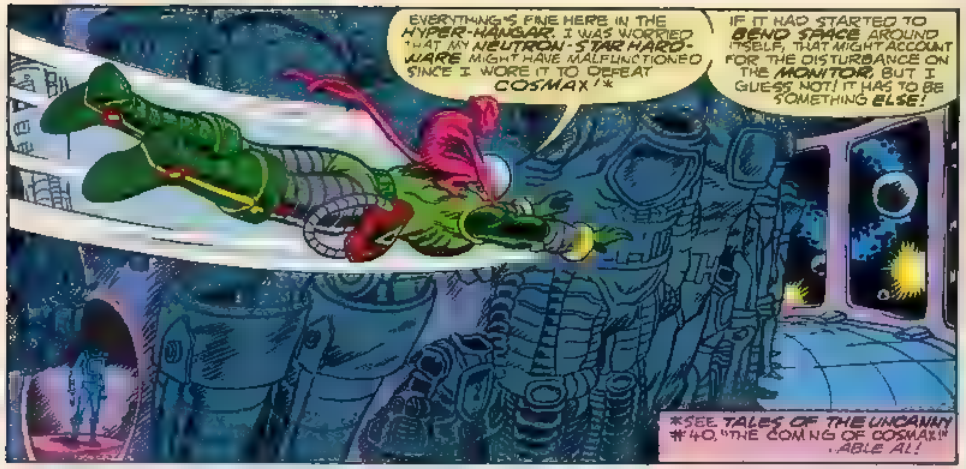
BUT ARE THE ORIGINAL BEINGS REALLY REBORN, OR ARE WE HYPERNAUTS SIMPLY SOULLESS, ARTIFICIAL COPIES OF...?

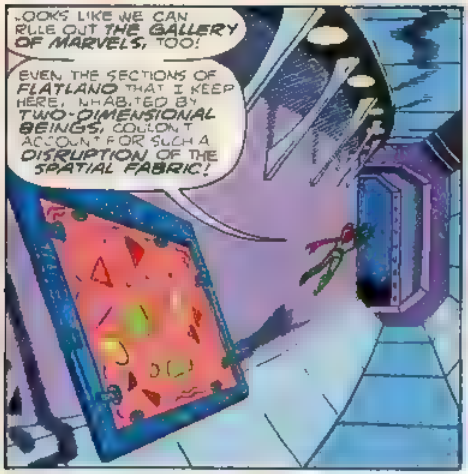
HMM? WHAT IS IT, QUEEP?

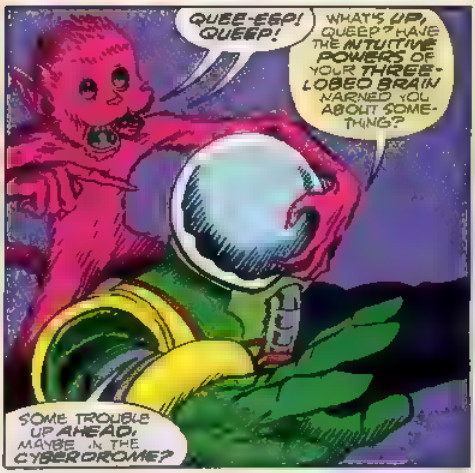
QUEEP! QUEEEP-BEEP!

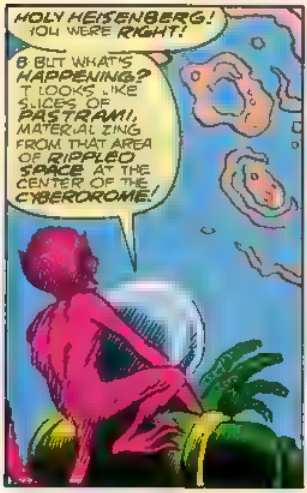
A WARNING-LIGHT FLASHING ON THE HYPERSPACE DISTURBANCE MONITOR!

MAYBE THERE'S A FLAW IN THE PARA-LOGIC GENERATORS THAT PERMIT THE HYPERBASES EXISTENCE IN REAL SPACE! HOLD TIGHT, QUEEP! WE BETTER INVESTIGATE BEFORE THIS PLACE IMPLODES!

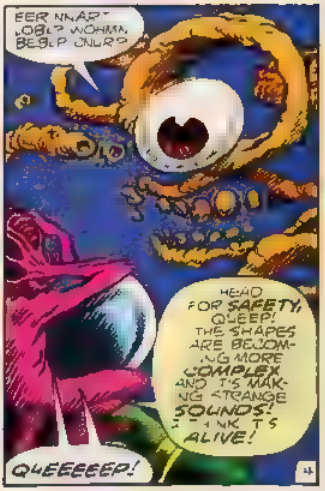

EVERYTHING'S FINE HERE IN THE HYPER-HANGAR. I WAS WORRIED THAT MY NEUTRON-STAR HARDWARE MIGHT HAVE MALFUNCTIONED SINCE I WORE IT TO DEFEAT COSMAX!*
IF IT HAD STARTED TO BEND SPACE AROUND ITSELF, THAT MIGHT ACCOUNT FOR THE DISTURBANCE ON THE MONITOR, BUT I GUESS NOT! IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING ELSE!
*SEE TALES OF THE UNCANNY #40, "THE COMING OF COSMAX!" ABLE AL!


LOOKS LIKE WE CAN RULE OUT THE GALLERY OF MARVELS, TOO!
EVEN THE SECTIONS OF FLATLAND THAT I KEEP HERE, INHABITED BY TWO-DIMENSIONAL BEINGS, COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR SUCH A DISRUPTION OF THE SPATIAL FABRIC!

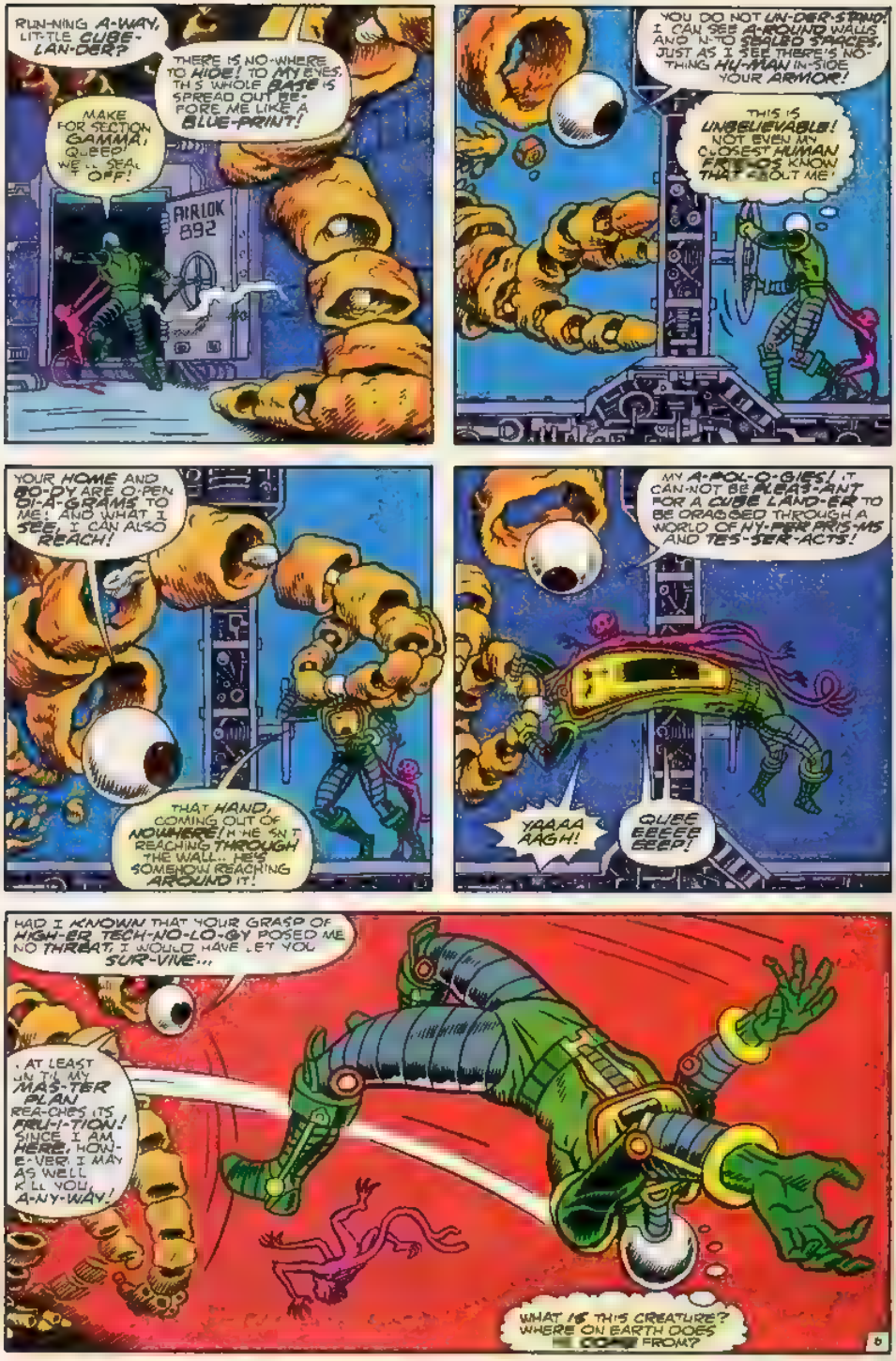

QUEE-EEP! QUEEP!
WHAT'S UP, QUEEP? HAVE THE INTUITIVE POWERS OF YOUR THREE-LOBED BRAIN WARNED YOU ABOUT SOMETHING?
SOME TROUBLE UP AHEAD, MAYBE IN THE CYBERDROME?

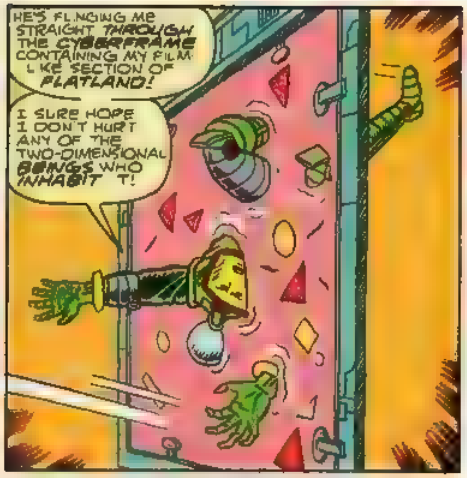

HOLY HEISENBERG! YOU WERE RIGHT!
BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING? IT LOOKS LIKE SLICES OF PASTRAMI, MATERIALIZING FROM THAT AREA OF RIPPLED SPACE AT THE CENTER OF THE CYBERDROME!

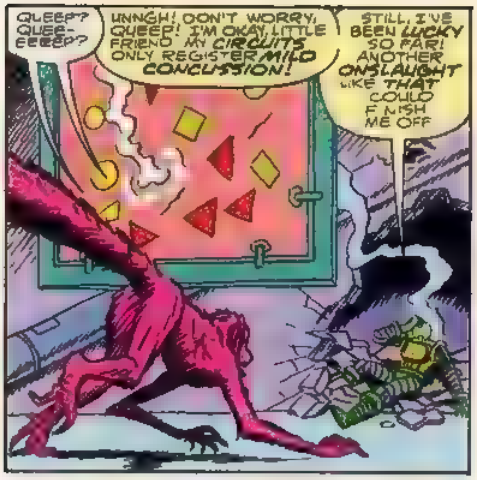
NOW THE SLICES ARE BALLOONING OUTWARDS, BECOMING THREE-DIMENSIONAL, ALMOST LIKE DONUTS MADE OF MEAT!
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?
QUEEEP??

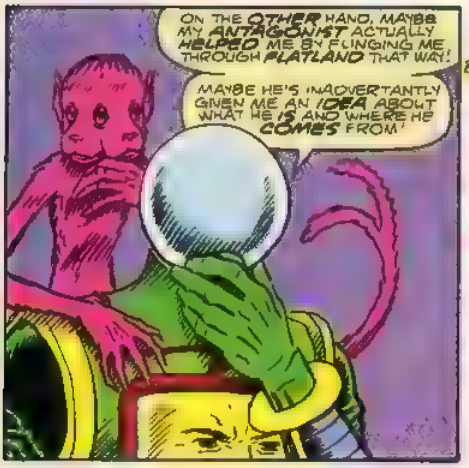

EER NNART LOBLO WOHMN BEBLP ONURO
HEAD FOR SAFETY, QUEEP! THE SHAPES ARE BECOMING MORE COMPLEX AND IT'S MAKING STRANGE SOUNDS! I THINK IT'S ALIVE!
QUEEEEEP!

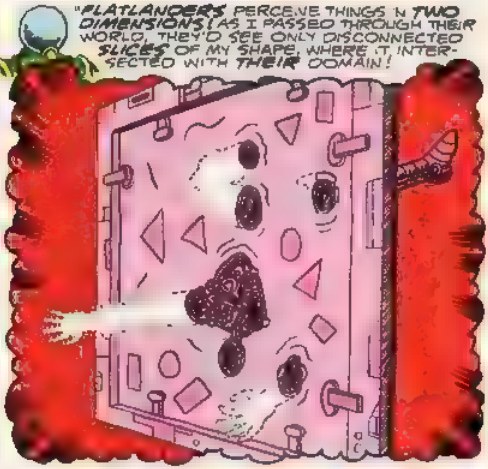
EER GNIGST BUE CNA DRE
GEERSTING CEUB ENLOAR
GG GRGE TINGS CUBE LANDER. PLEASE FOR GIVE M- JOICE IT S SO DIFF-- LT TO MAKE SOUNDS N THIS MED UM!
QUEEEP!
BUT THEN I AM NOT HERE TO HAVE A CON VER SA TION
I'M HERE TO DE-STROY YOU
KEEP OUT OF THE WAY, QUEEP! WHATEVER THIS CREATURE IS, SOUNDS LIKE IT MEANS BUSINESS!
THAT CLUSTER OF ORBITING PARTS, ALMOST LIKE A HAND, LUNGING AT ME!
MAYBE IT S TIME TO TEACH OUR INTRUDER WHAT T EES -- LIKE TO STOP A HYPERBOLT!
ZZZAAA
FOOL! YOUR POW ERS MEAN NO TH NG TO ONE WHO FOLD S SPACE AS EA-SI-LY AS YOU FOLD THIS TIS-SUE PA-PER!
APOOP!
QUEEEEEP!
AAAAAAAGH! I BLASTED MYSELF IN THE BACK!
YOUR IM PER FE C MET-R C SPACE STA-TION M PLIED THAT YOU MIGHT BE AD-VANCED ENOUGH TO THWART MY PLANS!
OB VI-OUS LY I NEED NOT HAVE WOR-RIED!
MY DAMAGE SENSORS ARE SCREAMING! I GOT TO GET AWAY AND BUY MYSELF SOME TIME!
5

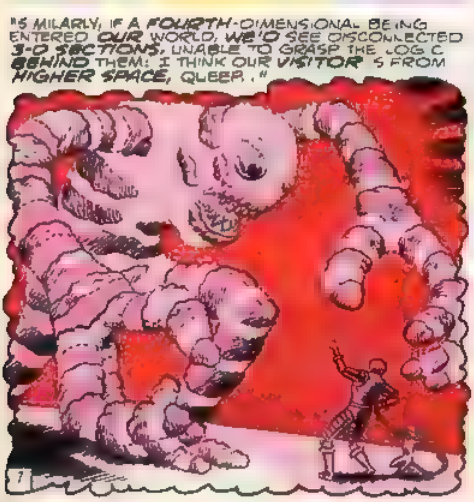

RUN-NING A-WAY, LIT-TLE CUBE-LAN-DER?
THERE IS NO-WHERE TO HIDE! TO MY EYES, THIS WHOLE BASE IS SPREAD OUT BE-FORE ME LIKE A BLUE-PRINT!
MAKE FOR SECTION GAMMA, QUEEG! WE'LL SEAL IT OFF!
AIRLOK 892
YOU DO NOT UN-DER-STAND! I CAN SEE A-ROUND WALLS AND TH-TO SEALED SPACES, JUST AS I SEE THERE'S NO-THING HU-MAN IN-SIDE YOUR ARMOR!
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! NOT EVEN MY CLOSEST HUMAN FRIENDS KNOW THAT ABOUT ME!
YOUR HOME AND BO-DY ARE O-PEN TO A-GRAMS TO ME! AND WHAT I SEE, I CAN ALSO REACH!
THAT HAND, COMING OUT OF NOWHERE! HE ISN'T REACHING THROUGH THE WALL... HE'S SOMEHOW REACHING AROUND IT!
MY A-POL-O-GIES! IT CAN-NOT BE PLEAS-ANT FOR A CUBE LAND-ER TO BE DRAGGED THROUGH A WORLD OF HY-PER PRIS-MS AND TES-SER-ACTS!
YAAAA AAGH!
CUBE EEEEE EEEP!
HAD I KNOWN THAT YOUR GRASP OF HIGH-ER TECH-NO-LO-GY POSED ME NO THREAT, I WOULD HAVE LET YOU SUR-VIVE...
. AT LEAST UN-TIL MY MAS-TER PLAN REA-CHES ITS FRU-I-TION! SINCE I AM HERE, HOW-EVER, I MAY AS WELL K-LL YOU, A-NY-WAY!
WHAT IS THIS CREATURE? WHERE ON EARTH DOES [redacted] COME FROM?
6

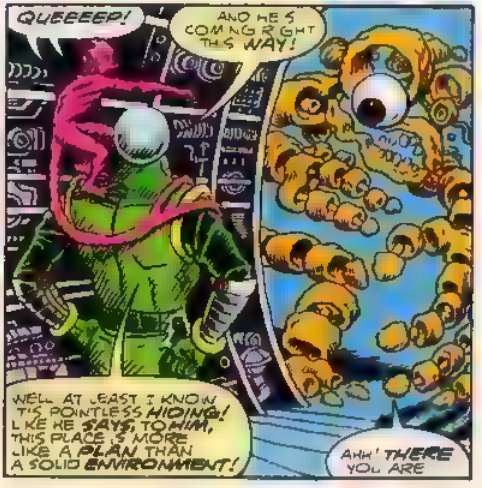

HE'S FLINGING ME STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CYBERFRAME CONTAINING MY FILM LIKE SECTION OF FLATLAND!
I SURE HOPE I DON'T HURT ANY OF THE TWO-DIMENSIONAL BEINGS WHO INHABIT IT!

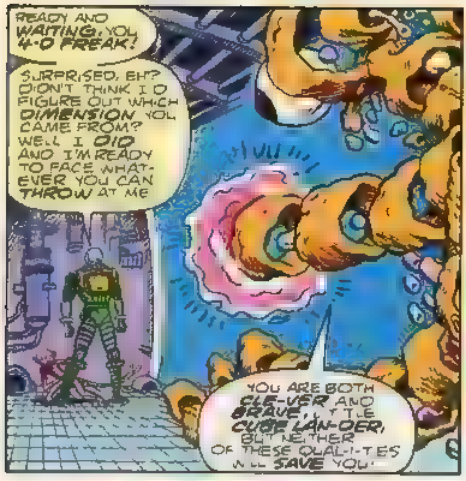

QUEEP? QUEE-EEEEP?
UNNGH! DON'T WORRY, QUEEP! I'M OKAY, LITTLE FRIEND MY CIRCUITS ONLY REGISTER MILD CONCUSSION!
STILL, I'VE BEEN LUCKY SO FAR! ANOTHER ONSLAUGHT LIKE THAT COULD FINISH ME OFF

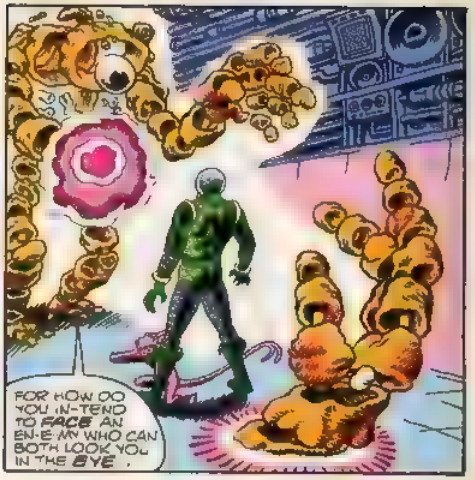

ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE MY ANTAGONIST ACTUALLY HELPED ME BY FLINGING ME THROUGH FLATLAND THAT WAY!
MAYBE HE'S INADVERTANTLY GIVEN ME AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT HE IS AND WHERE HE COMES FROM!

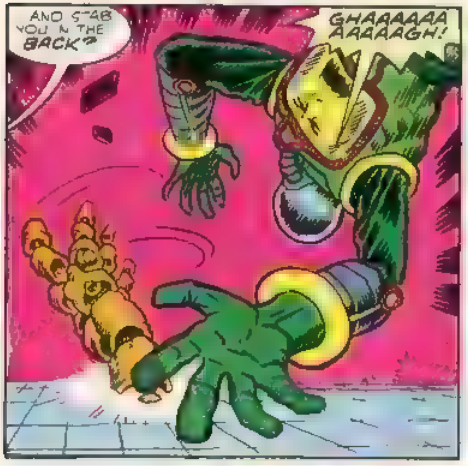

"FLATLANDERS PERCEIVE THINGS IN TWO DIMENSIONS! AS I PASSED THROUGH THEIR WORLD, THEY'D SEE ONLY DISCONNECTED SLICES OF MY SHAPE, WHERE IT INTERSECTED WITH THEIR DOMAIN!

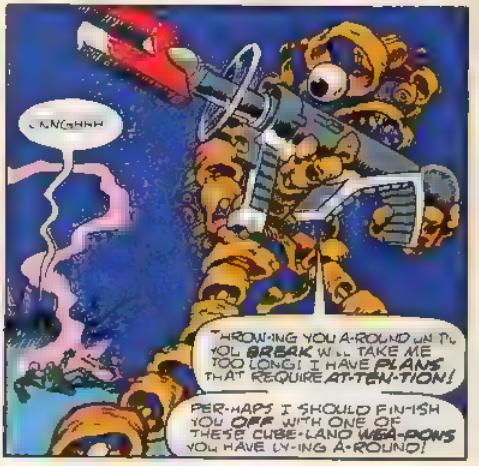

"SIMILARLY, IF A FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL BEING ENTERED OUR WORLD, WE'D SEE DISCONNECTED 3-D SECTIONS, UNABLE TO GRASP THE LOGIC BEHIND THEM! I THINK OUR VISITOR IS FROM HIGHER SPACE, QUEER."

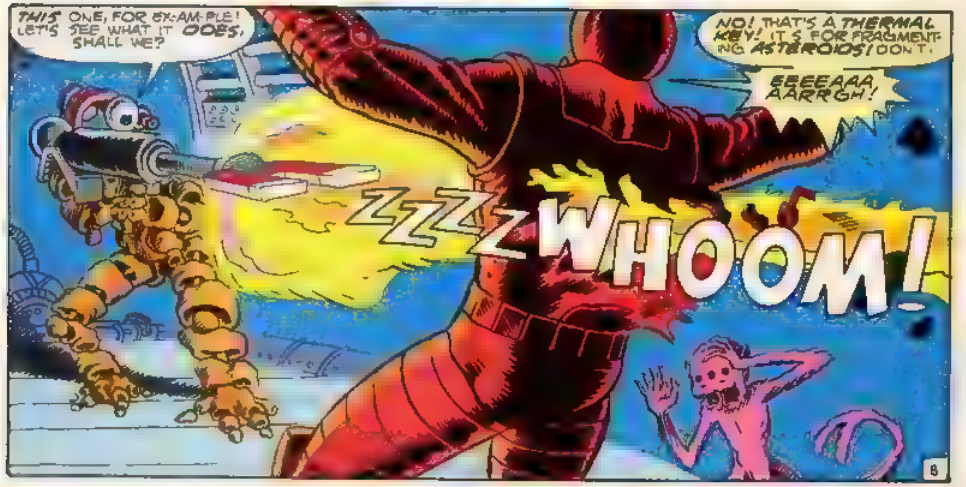

QUEEEEP!
AND HE'S COMING RIGHT THIS WAY!
WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW THIS POINTLESS HIDING! I'LL BE SAFE TO SWIM, THIS PLACE STORE LIKE A PLAN THAN A SOLID ENVIRONMENT!
AHH! THERE YOU ARE

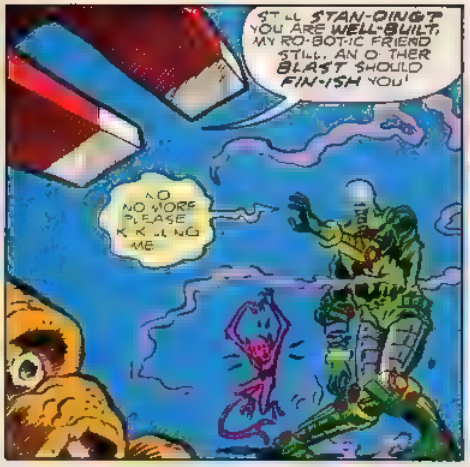

READY AND WAITING, YOU 4-O FREAK!
SURPRISED, EH? DIDN'T THINK I'D FIGURE OUT WHICH DIMENSION YOU CAME FROM? WELL I DID AND I'M READY TO FACE WHATEVER YOU CAN THROW AT ME
YOU ARE BOTH CLEVER AND BRAVE, TITLE CUBE-WANDERER, BUT NEITHER OF THESE QUALITIES WILL SAVE YOU.

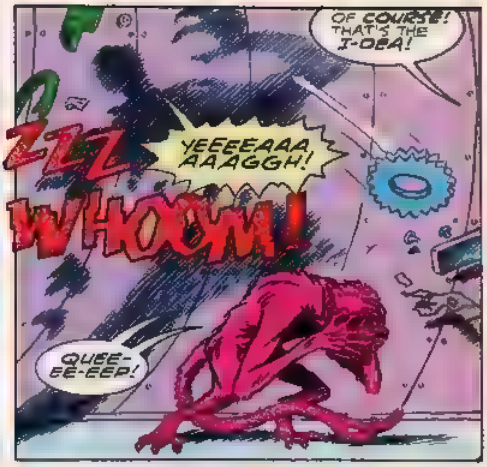

FOR HOW DO YOU INTEND TO FACE AN ENEMY WHO CAN BOTH LOOK YOU IN THE EYE.

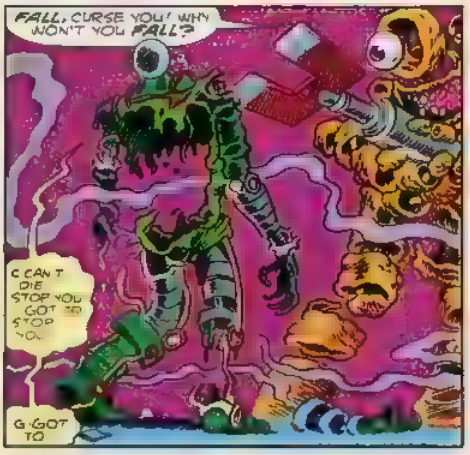

AND STAB YOU IN THE BACK?
GHAAAAAA AAAAAGH!

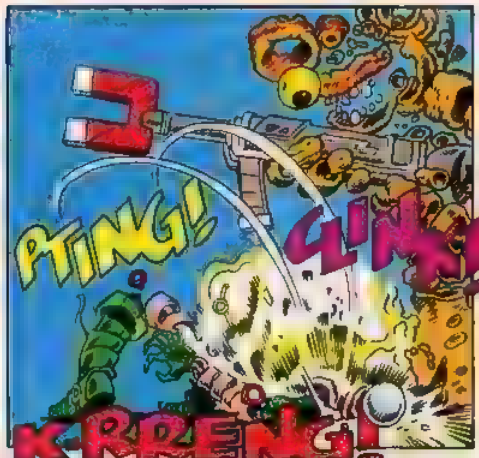

KNGHHH
THROWING YOU AROUND IN YOUR BREAK WILL TAKE ME TOO LONG. I HAVE PLANS THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION!
PERHAPS I SHOULD FINISH YOU OFF WITH ONE OF THESE CUBE-LAND WEAPONS YOU HAVE LYING AROUND!


THIS ONE, FOR EXAMPLE! LET'S SEE WHAT IT DOES, SHALL WE?
NO! THAT'S A THERMAL KEY! IT'S FOR FRAGMENTING ASTEROIDS! DON'T.
EEEEAAA AARRGH!
ZZZZ WHOOM!

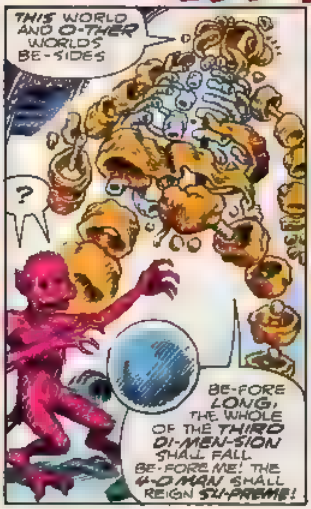

STILL STAN-DING? YOU ARE WELL-BUILT, MY RO-BOT-IC FRIEND STILL, AN O-THER BLAST SHOULD FIN-ISH YOU!
NO NO MORE PLEASE K-K-LL NO ME

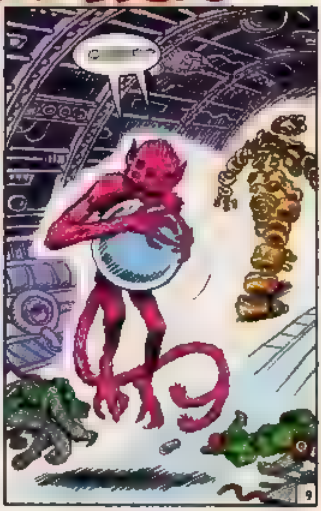

OF COURSE! THAT'S THE I-DEA!
ZZZ
YEEEEAAA AAAGGH!
WHOOM!
QUEE-EE-EEP!


FALL, CURSE YOU! WHY WON'T YOU FALL?
C-CAN-T DIE STOP YOU GOT TO STOP YOU
G-GOT TO


PTING!
GINK!
K-RRENG!

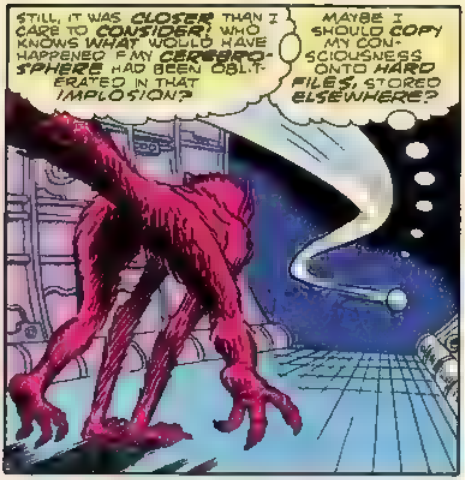
AT LAST! THE HY-PER-NAUT, THE ON-LY ONE WHO COULD HAVE STOPPED ME S DE-STROYED!
SOON, THE O-THER SU-PER BE-INGS WHO DE-FEND THIS WORLD SHALL JOIN WITH HIM IN DEATH!
Q QUE-E-E-E-P?

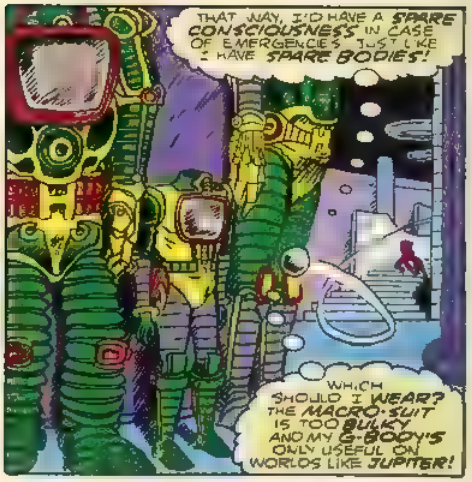

THIS WORLD AND O-THER WORLDS BE-SIDES
?
BE-FORE LONG, THE WHOLE OF THE THIRD DI-MEN-SION SHALL FALL BE-FORE ME! THE 4-D MAN SHALL REIGN SU-PREME!

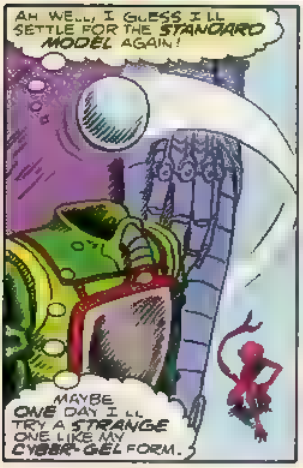

C-C-?

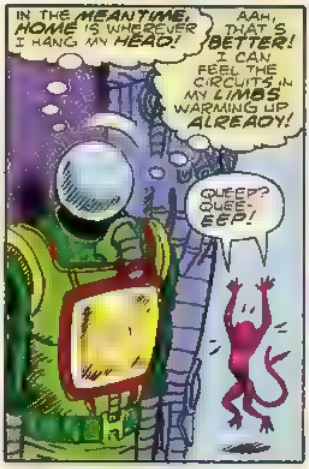
I WAS HOPING HE WOULDN'T REALIZE THAT MY CEREBRO-SPHERE FUNCTIONS INDEPENDENTLY!
LET'S HOPE QUEEP IS SMART ENOUGH TO HOLD TIGHT! CAN'T WARN HIM OF MY PLAN WITHOUT A VOICE-BOX!
EH? WHAT THE?
I ONLY PRAY THAT SHOOTING STRAIGHT INTO HIM LIKE THIS WORKS!
TO HIM, I'M AS INSUBSTANTIAL AS A FLAT DOT WITH NO THICKNESS! WOULD BE TO ME! I CAN SLIDE BETWEEN THE 4-D ATOMS OF HIS BODY!
QUEEEEEP!! QUEEEE--EEEEEEP!
I DID IT! I'M INSIDE HIM! IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT THESE ENDLESS METAPHYSICAL REACHES THAT WE'RE FLYING THROUGH MUST BE THE CREATURE'S BRAIN!!
EXISTING AT RIGHT ANGLES TO OUR UNIVERSE, EXEMPT FROM OUR LAWS! IT'S BIGGER INSIDE THAN OUT! THESE FANTASTIC SHAPES MUST BE ITS NEURAL CLUSTERS AND SYNAPSES!
10

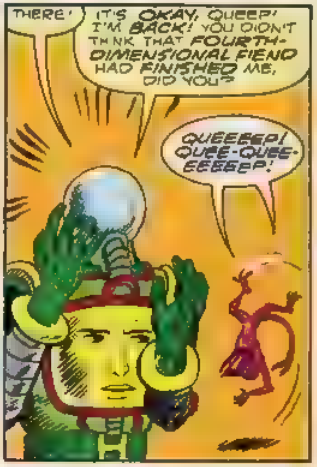
NOW TO PUT PHASE TWO OF MY PLAN INTO OPERATION!
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PLAY BACK THE INFORMATION I ABSORBED FROM MY INTELLIGENCE TANK EARLIER, RIGHT HERE IN THE CENTER OF HIS MIND!
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING..
THE CONSTITUENT BASES OF DNA ARE ADENINE, GUANINE, THYMINE, AND CYTOSINE...
MOST POPULAR U.S. STREET NAMES: 1 PARK 2 WASHINGTON; 3 MAPLE, 4 OAK, 5 LINCOLN..
"WHEN THE STARS THREW DOWN THEIR SPEARS AND WATERED HEAVEN WITH THEIR TEARS..."
C-1)N/(2N+1)
NO! WHAT IS HAP-PEN-ING? A VAST WAVE OF ALIEN IN-FOR-MA-TION, BREA-KING IN-SIDE MY MIND!
STA-TIS-TICS! HIS-TO-RY! MU-SIC! IT WILL DRIVE ME MAD!
POST-AGE STAMPS! T-AL-IAN PO-ETS THE BONES OF THE ALIEN BEAR! I CAN NOT BEAR IT!
I MUST WITH-DRAW FROM THIS DI-MEN-SION BE-FORE IT DE-STROYS ME!! EEEE
EEEEEEE
WE DID IT! HE'S VANISHED!
EEEEE
BUMMOOM!
PLUS, I MANAGED TO GET US OUT BEFORE THE FORCE OF HIS IMPLOSION TOOK US WITH HIM!
QUEEP! QUEEEP!?
POOR QUEEP! I WISH I COULD TELL HIM THAT OUR FOE IS GONE, WHETHER BACK TO HIS OWN WORLD OR DESTROYED FOREVER DOESN'T MATTER!
IT'S OVER AT LEAST FOR NOW!
11

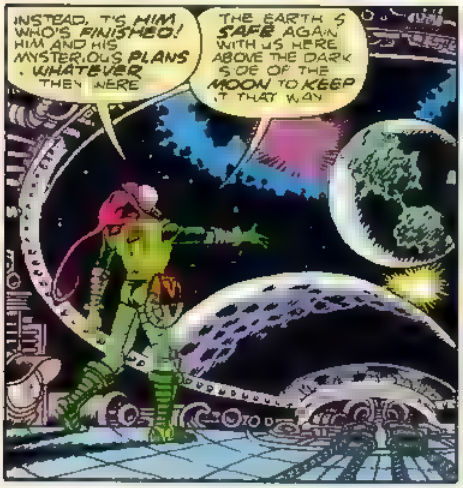

STILL, IT WAS CLOSER THAN I CARE TO CONSIDER! WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF MY CEREBRO-SPHERE HAD BEEN OBLITERATED IN THAT IMPLOSION?
MAYBE I SHOULD COPY MY CONSCIOUSNESS ONTO HARD FILES, STORED ELSEWHERE?

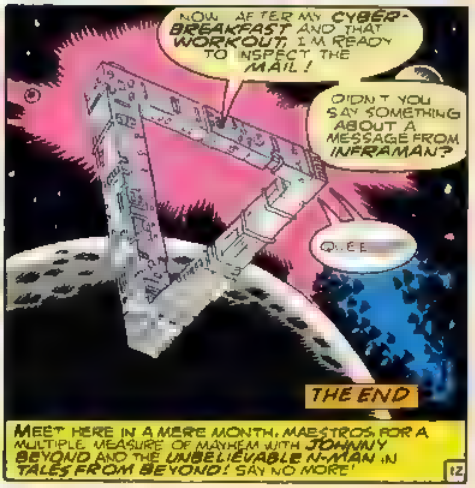

THAT WAY, I'D HAVE A SPARE CONSCIOUSNESS IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES. JUST LIKE I HAVE SPARE BODIES!
WHICH SHOULD I WEAR? THE MACRO-SUIT IS TOO BULKY AND MY G-BODY'S ONLY USEFUL ON WORLDS LIKE JUPITER!


AH WELL, I GUESS I'LL SETTLE FOR THE STANDARD MODEL AGAIN!
MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL TRY A STRANGE ONE LIKE MY CYBER-GEL FORM.


IN THE MEANTIME, HOME IS WHEREVER I HANG MY HEAD!
AAH, THAT'S BETTER! I CAN FEEL THE CIRCUITS IN MY LIMBS WARMING UP ALREADY!
QUEEP? QUEE-EEP!


THERE!
IT'S OKAY, QUEEP! I'M BACK! YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL FIEND HAD FINISHED ME, DID YOU?
QUEEEEP! QUEE-QUEE-EEEEEP!


INSTEAD, IT'S HIM WHO'S FINISHED! HIM AND HIS MYSTERIOUS PLANS. WHATEVER THEY WERE.
THE EARTH'S SAFE AGAIN WITH US HERE ABOVE THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.


NOW, AFTER MY CYBER-BREAKFAST AND THAT WORKOUT, I'M READY TO INSPECT THE MAIL!
DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT A MESSAGE FROM INFERAMAN?
QUEE...
THE END
MEET HERE IN A MERE MONTH, MAESTROS, FOR A MULTIPLE MEASURE OF MAYHEM WITH JOHNNY BEYOND AND THE UNBELIEVABLE N-MAN IN TALES FROM BEYOND! SAY NO MORE!

CAN HARDWARE HAVE A HEART?
CAN CIRCUITS HAVE A SOUL?
HEADS UP, HUMANITY... HERE COMES
HYPERNAUT
A SIZZLIN' SIXTY-THREE SOUVENIR SNAP-SHOT!

A SIZZLIN' SIXTY-THREE SOUVENIR SNAP-SHOT!
QUEUE HERE, FOR THAT QUAINTEST AND MOST QUOTABLE OF QUANTUM QUADRAPEDS! IT'S...
QUEEP!

A SIZZLIN' SIXTY-THREE SOUVENIR SNAP-SHOT!
UNCOVERING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES?
UNDER SOVIET ATTACK?
URGENTLY SEEKING ASSISTANCE?
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